

May 25, 2012

Weekly Views

The BMV Mobile Unit has been busy at Wabash Valley Correctional Facility helping soon to be released offenders get the picture, a proper photo identification that is! Over 85 minimum and maximum security WVCF offenders within a year of release will receive the BMV ID card as they return to society. The legally recognized ID will help overcome a number of hurdles, such as being able to cash a check.

The Correctional Training Institute (CTI) is proud to announce the addition of wireless internet at the facility. The wireless technology affords added value to the training capabilities the IDOC provides to Department staff and other federal, state, and local agencies. Staff can access the technology from common areas of the facility enhancing connections to email, internet, or social media sites. The

project was accomplished through the efforts of IDOC Central Office staff, CTI staff, and Indiana Office of Technology staff.

The Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators for PbS (Performance based Standards) announced that Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility (PNJCF) has attained PbS Level 3. PNJCF achieved Level 3 by focusing on safety and security through de-escalation and increasing student programs and activities. Superintendent Commons remarked, "All of the teamwork, commitment to the standards of PbS, and dedication to accomplishing our facility improvement plans has had a tremendous impact."

Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) said its goodbyes to Purdue North Central during the facility's final college graduation ceremony. Purdue had been an integral part of the Education Department at WCC since 1986. This last graduation saw 28 offenders receive their college degree. Purdue's long partnership with Westville has provided hundreds of offenders with a vital re-entry tool, education. Staff and volunteers, under the direction of Superintendent Levenhagen, are already brainstorming to fill the vacant space with programming opportunities.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) conducted a college graduation ceremony to recognize graduates of the Ball State University and Grace College Programs. Re-entry Marion County Superior Court Judge Jose Salinas served as guest speaker for the event. Following the graduation program, a reception was held to say goodbye and good luck to Dr. Charles Greenwood who has served as the Ball State University PCF Site Coordinator for the past five years. Dr. Greenwood was honored not only in conjunction with his work with Ball State but also for the many other services he has provided to the facility including his work with the American Legion Organization. Now that the college programs have concluded at the facility Dr. Greenwood will be returning to the Ball State Campus to begin his new role in the area of community relations for the University.

Indiana State Prison Sergeant Cedano and his K-9 dog, who is trained to search for bombs, assisted the Michigan City Police Department in a search of Michigan City Air Port in Michigan City, Indiana. This was an excellent opportunity for the staff of the Indiana State Prison to demonstrate we are good neighbors and are always here to support the needs of the community.

The Putnamville Correctional Facility (PCF) won first place during the Federal Correctional Workers Softball Tournament for the second consecutive year. Teams hailed from the Federal Correctional Complex in Terre Haute, Federal Correctional Institution in Greenville, IL, Vigo County Sheriff's Department and the Indiana State Police. PCF team members, Mike Adams, Brad Alspaugh, Darrin Chaney, Kevin Daniels, Trey Ellis, Mike Ellis, Chad Evans, Chris Lanning, Michael Moore, Ryan Nicholson, Justin Noblitt, Josh Stark, Frank Vanihel went undefeated winning the final match with a score of 16-5 against the Federal Correctional Institution from Greenville.

Liberty Hall, a work release facility in Indianapolis, donated 92 cell phones to the Julian Center. The phones that were confiscated from offenders will be used by the Julian Center for victims leaving shelters and through partnership with the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department.

Throughout the month of May staff members at Rockville Correctional Facility tossed their spare change into donation jars as part of the Pennies for Preemies campaign in support of the March of Dimes/March for Babies. Nikki Simpson, March of Dimes representative, was presented a check in the amount of \$205 as well as 200 handmade preemie sized blankets and layette items. The blankets and layette items were crocheted, quilted or hand-tied by staff members and offenders at the facility.

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility started Correctional Employees Week with Superintendent Griffin and other administrative staff preparing lunch on the grill. Other events that staff enjoyed throughout the week included ice cream sundaes, a car wash, barbeque chicken on the barbeque with all the trimmings, fresh fruit, doughnuts and coffee, and bowling and chicken wings for those interested. Various games were played throughout the week with a gift card given away daily. The week ended with a staff breakfast.

The Correctional Industrial Facility held a Volunteer Appreciation Banquet with over 50 volunteers in attendance. Guest speaker Isaac Randolph from Religious Services & Community Involvement provided uplifting and inspiration words to those in attendance. Superintendent Knight stated we could not do what we do day in and day out without the valuable assistance these volunteers provide our facility.

Twenty two members of the Christian Motorcycle Association visited the New Castle Correctional Facility with 15 motorcycles. Over 800 offenders were able to enjoy the event.